Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A fastening tool and fasteners for fastening an object to a substrate, said tool comprising:

a housing;

a driver mounted in said housing for reciprocal movement in a drive path;

an actuator for actuating said driver;

a magazine assembly associated with said housing, said magazine assembly containing one or more uniformly coated fasteners forming a unitary structure including a forwardmost fastener, said magazine assembly having a nose end and a tail end spaced from said nose end;

a pusher in said magazine assembly for urging said plurality of fasteners towards said nose end such that said forwardmost fastener is aligned in said drive path.

2. (Currently amended) The fastening tool and fasteners of claim 1, wherein said coating on said fasteners is electrically insulating.

3. (Currently amended) The fastening tool and fasteners of claim 1, wherein said coating on said fasteners has cushioning properties.

4. (Currently amended) The fastening tool and fasteners of claim 1, wherein said one or more fasteners are staples.

5. (Currently amended) The fastening tool and fasteners of claim 1, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutylene , PVC, CPVC, ABS and PVDF.

6. (Currently amended) The fastening tool and fasteners of claim 1, wherein said coating is nylon.

7. (Currently amended) The fastening tool and fasteners of claim 1, wherein said magazine assembly is detachably secured to said housing.

8. (Currently amended) An insulated staple for securing a wire to a substrate, comprising:

a staple body formed into a bight portion; and a pair of legs extending from said bight portion, each leg terminating in a free end; and

a dielectric coating uniformly coated on said staple body prior to formation into said bight portion and said pair of legs, said coating adhering to said bight portion and pair of legs after formation into said bight portion and pair of legs so as to form an integral unitary structure.

9. (Previously presented) The insulated staple of claim 8, wherein said coating remains stationary on said staple.

10. (Previously presented) The insulated staple of claim 8, wherein said coating has a thickness of from about 0.001 inches to about 0.050 inches.

11. (Previously presented) The insulated staple of claim 8, wherein said staple is made of bright or galvanized steel.

12. (Previously presented) The insulated staple of claim 8, wherein each said free end terminates in an angled cut to facilitate penetration into said substrate.

13. (Currently amended) A method of fastening an article to a substrate, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a fastening tool comprising:

a housing;

a driver mounted in said housing for reciprocal movement in a drive path;

a magazine assembly associated with said housing, said magazine assembly containing one or more uniformly coated

fasteners forming a unitary structure, including a forwardmost coated fastener,

said magazine assembly having a nose end and a tail end spaced

from said nose end; and

b) properly positioning said fastening tool about said article to be fastened; and

c) actuating said driver thereby causing said driver to strike said forwardmost coated fastener and propel said forwardmost coated fastener out of said housing and into said substrate [[ab]] about said article.

14. (New) The fastening tool and fasteners of claim 1, wherein said object to be fastened is selected from the group consisting of wire, cable and tubing.

15. (New) A method of forming an insulated staple for securing a wire to a substrate, comprising:

providing a staple body adapted to be formed into a bight portion and a pair of legs extending from said bight portion, each leg terminating in a free end;

uniformly coating said staple body with a dielectric coating prior to formation into said bight portion and said pair of legs;

forming said staple body into said bight portion and pair of legs, said coating adhering to said bight portion and said pair of legs after formation into said bight portion and pair of legs so as to form an integral unitary structure.